

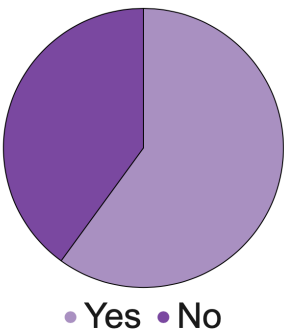
What's Your Opinion?

Is mayonnaise a valid condiment?

Out of 45 responses:

Yes - 27

No - 18



Next Poll:

Happy Thanksgiving

Are you excited for Thanksgiving break?

Students can answer the poll on The Herald's Instagram page, [@astateherald](#). Instagram polls are posted on Mondays. Previous poll results can be found on [astatetheherald.com](#)

Have an idea for a poll? Send your ideas to [heraldopinion1921@gmail.com](#).

These and future articles can be found on the Opinion section of The Herald's website.

The Democrats won't help, ever

ELIJAH TEMPLETON

LIFE EDITOR



Elijah Templeton is a senior English major from Jonesboro.

As I write this, members of Congress are making their way back to D.C. in anticipation of a vote on the House floor to approve a spending package that would see the federal government reopen and be funded until Jan. 30.

By the time you read this, the vote may be ongoing or already finished, but barring some act of divine intervention or members of the GOP caucus suddenly deciding to oppose the President, the government will be open once again after the longest shutdown in American history.

The reason for the shutdown in the first place was the impasse reached by Democrat and Republican Senators to approve a spending bill that would have seen Affordable Care Act (ACA) subsidies slashed.

Democrats held firm, refusing to approve the bill until Republicans came to the table and made some concessions that they viewed as essential to their constituents.

They held firm when SNAP benefits were put at risk. Held firm when thousands of federal employees

continued to work without pay. All of this, they said, in the name of making a stand for what they believed their constituents voted for them to defend.

After 41 days, eight Democratic senators decided that they had fought long and hard enough. They joined with the Republicans to pass the spending bill 60-40.

Their reasoning and justifications vary, but it is ultimately of little importance. No matter what they say, the evidence is clear.

They caved.

They stood strong and played the part of the resilient opposition fighting for their constituents and when the heat got just a little too hot for them, they folded their hand and gave up.

This is nothing new, simply the latest example of Democrats being ineffective, weak and uninspired.

This sudden shift is of particular note due to it happening in the wake of a seemingly turning tide. Democrat candidates swept elections across the nation last week, many victors campaigning on the platform that their election was a rebuke against the Trump administration in itself.

For the first time since Kamala Harris stepped in as the nominee for President, Democrats seemed to have momentum and public opinion on their side, or at the very least, heading in that direction.

Instead of capitalizing on that momentum and using that public good will to stand strong and hold onto their demands and force the administration to publicly attempt to deny SNAP payments during a shutdown that the majority of Americans blamed on the Republicans anyway, they instead broke



PHOTO COURTESY OF THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

(From top left) Catherine Masto, Dick Durbin, John Fetterman, Maggie Hassan, Tim Kaine, Angus King, Jacky Rosen and Jeanne Shaheen. These eight senators broke with Democrats on the government shutdown deal Monday.

rank and gave Trump exactly what he wanted: an end to the shutdown and a frame work to blame the Democrats for causing it.

Now you may be thinking, surely the Democrats were able to get at least some of their demands added into the bill. Surely they would not have folded and come away empty-handed with absolutely nothing to show for their time and efforts during this shutdown.

Of course, you would be wrong.

Now, the government will reopen and the Democrats will have effectively kept the government shut down for no reason at all. Everything they demanded is still out of reach. Federal employees worked without pay, others faced evictions and many more struggled with food insecurity, all in the name of nothing.

It's all quite emblematic of the Democratic party as a whole, really. They seemed united and focused on a

singular issue, got good publicity from their empty statements and then backed out at the most opportune time for their opponents.

This is what happens when your party is made up of people who don't really stand for anything. Who will say and do whatever has been tested in think-tanks and surveys to be the 'right' answer. When your foundation is made up of AIPAC money, you don't really have the strength to weather a storm.

When your leaders are corrupt and self-serving, you fail. When you move further to the right in response to a shifting political landscape, you lose. When your voters cannot trust you to accomplish even the smallest of tasks, you deserve to be shamed.

Change must come to the Democratic party and it must happen soon.

But of course, that's just one man's opinion.

Mayonnaise is an overlooked condiment hero

ALLIE CARSON

NEWS EDITOR



Allie Carson is a sophomore creative media production major from Jonesboro.

No, Patrick, mayonnaise is not an instrument. But, it is the best condiment.

Between ketchup, mustard and mayonnaise, mayo is the most versatile and the best condiment of the trio; however, it is underappreciated and extremely over-hated.

Mayo can be put on hot dogs, hamburgers, chicken nuggets, french

fries and sandwiches. It's also the main ingredient for many salads, dressings, homemade tartar sauce and many other meals.

I also enjoy putting mayonnaise on steamed broccoli, which is extremely controversial in all my friend groups. However, it just shows how versatile mayo is. My grandmother fondly referred to mayonnaise as "the poor man's hollandaise," a phrase that captures both its humble origins and its adaptability.

Mayonnaise comes from France, just like hollandaise sauce. However, mayo is cheaper and more accessible to everyday people, which is why my grandma coined the phrase when we'd put mayo on steamed broccoli.

While many people's gripe with mayo stems from the fact that it's bland and doesn't add anything to your food, that's far from the truth. A 7-layer salad is but lettuce and dry ingredients without mayo to bring everything

together. Without mayo on a BLT, it's just a sad sandwich.

Mayo on hot dogs and hamburgers is where the real debate comes in. I put mayo and ketchup on both, giving the cook out staples a nice blend of the ketchup's bitterness and the mayonnaise's creaminess.

Mayonnaise offers creaminess that the other two "big three" condiments don't. Ketchup is bitter and the juice is always running. Mustard is tangy, extremely pungent and my personal least favorite condiment.

Ketchup does have the redeeming value of being a great mixer for mayonnaise. On hot dogs and hamburgers, the combination provides a powerful flavor and texture blend. The mix is also great for dipping chicken nuggets and french fries.

Mayo is definitely the most overhated and, other than ranch dressing, the most versatile condiment there is. No other condiment can be on or in as many food

items as mayonnaise.

In short, let's stop hopping on the mayo-hatred bandwagon and try things without knocking them first. And yes, I'm talking about steamed broccoli and mayonnaise.



PHOTO COURTESY OF BOWLOFDELICIOUS.COM

A photo of steamed broccoli with soy mayo dip.

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